

REMARKS

Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for discussing this case with applicant's representative, Mr. Alan M. Lenkin, on March 15, 2004, at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Although applicant does not disagree with the substance of the interview summary, applicant notes that the "applicant admitted prior art" discussed was MACNAUGHTON et al.

As agreed during the interview, claims 1, 15, 16, and 30 have been amended to further define the membership information as being dynamically updated from user terminals. The amendments to the claims add no prohibited new matter and are supported in the specification at, *inter alia*, page 19.

It is believed that the applied prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed features. Consequently, it is submitted that each of the independent claims is allowable over the applied references.

Dependent claims 2 - 13 and 17 - 28 are also believed to recite further patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the

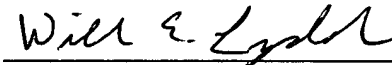
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outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

Any amendments to the claims in this amendment that have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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